

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4254
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0565

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, GY, NS, US
SUBJECT: RUMORED US MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP VISIT TO SURINAM

REF: GEORGETOWN 1221

1. WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT WILL CONFIRM TO EMBASSY GEORGETOWN THAT THERE IS NO "U.S. MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP MISSION" IN OR COMING TO SURINAM. THE ONLY US MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH SURINAM THAT WE KNOW OF ARE THE ROUTINE TRANSITS OF UNCLASSIFIED USAF SATELLITE-TRACKING AIRCRAFT (LAST ONE IN EARLY APRIL, NONE SCHEDULED AHEAD AT THIS TIME) AND A PROJECTED VISIT BY THE U.S. NAVY SHOBAN IN AUGUST. SOME USAF AIRCRAFT STAGED THROUGH SURINAM IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BRAZIL.

2. NEVERTHELESS, WE WOULD NOT FAVOR GIVING THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA (GOG) ANY SPECIFIC DISCLAIMER OF THE ADMITTEDLY "VAGUE" REPORT BROUGHT UP BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER. SURINAM

IS A MEMBER OF THE OAS AND PARTICIPATES IN ITS MILITARY MEETINGS; THERE HAVE BEEN (MORE THAN A YEAR AGO) VISITS TO SURINAM BY US MILITARY PERSONNEL UNDER INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD AUSPICES WITHOUT PRIOR CLEARANCE OF THE
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USG, AND THIS COULD ALWAYS HAPPEN AGAIN. SIMILARLY, THERE HAVE BEEN ROUTINE CONTACTS FOR FAMILIARIZATION PURPOSES

BETWEEN SURINAM AND SOUTHERN COMMAND MILITARY PERSONNEL, ALSO

MORE THAN A YEAR AGO. WE DO NOT THINK THAT THE USG SHOULD PUT ITSELF IN THE POSITION OF HAVING TO INFORM THE GOG

IF AND WHEN ANY SUCH CONTACTS TAKE PLACE WITH THE GOS,
AND THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT THE RESPONSE TO THE GOG BE IN
TERMS OF A GENERAL DISCLAIMER OF ANY US MILITARY INTEREST
OR INTERVENTION IN THE BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES, COUPLED WITH A POSITIVE URGING THAT THE TWO

COUNTRIES DISCUSS AND SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR UN CHARTER OBLIGATIONS WITHOUT THE
USE OR THREAT OF FORCE. IF THIS IS DONE IN GEORGETOWN,
THE SAME POINT COULD BE MADE IN PARAMARIBO WHEN (AND IF)
THE PRIME MINISTER CARRCES OUT HIS STATED INTENT TO CALL
IN THE AMBASSADOR FOR A BRIEFING ON SURINAM'S REACTION TO
THE GOG NOTE.
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